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Libby G. Waits
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Devine et al

Docket No. : PRS 075

Serial No. : 09/681,894

Art Unit : 2823

Filed : 6/21/2001

Examiner : Collins, D. M.

For : Radiation Hardened Microcircuits

AMENDMENT RESPONSIVE TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the first Office action mailed 12/10/2001, and having a shortened statutory response period that extends through and including 3/10/2002, kindly amend the claims in the following manner and consider the subsequent remarks:

In the Claims:

mlb/B
11. (amended) A radiation hardened silicon-based semiconductor microcircuit prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

 fabricating the microcircuit using standard techniques of silicon-based microelectronics
 up to the step of heating the microcircuit;

 heating the microcircuit in a vacuum; and

 annealing the microcircuit with deuterium-containing forming gas.

AA
13. (new) The radiation hardened semiconductor microcircuit of Claim 12 wherein the process includes annealing the microcircuit in a vacuum.